

FUTURE HOPE

1 THESSALONIANS

Greetings To A Young Church

1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

**We are calling this series,
"Future Hope"**

**At the end of every chapter, there is the
mention of the coming of The Lord**

Background of The Church

ACTS 17

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

The City

It is an ancient city, originally named **Therma** from the many hot springs adjacent to it.

The City

In 315 B.C., Cassander, one of Alexander the Great's generals rebuilt the city and renamed it Thessalonica after the half sister of Alexander the Great.

The City

When Rome conquered Macedonia in 168 B.C., the city was made capital of that entire province.

In Roman times this city which was located on 2 major trade routes had a population was over 200,000.

The City

Today, it is called Thessaloniki, and is a bustling center of northern Greece with a population over 300,000.

It is one of the few cities that has survived from the New Testament era of apostolic ministry.

The Importance of The City

1. Thessalonica was the capital city of Macedonia (ancient Greece)
2. The famous Via Ignatia (Egnatian Way) ran through the middle of the city

The Importance of The City

3. The city was on the coast and had a magnificent harbor

4. The population of the city was about 200,000

5. Paul had in mind that this city could be a launching pad for the gospel (1 Thess. 1:8)

The Morals of The City

The morals of ancient Thessalonica were like any ancient Greek city

-not good

The Gospel to The City

In Acts 17, we read about Paul taking the gospel to Thessalonica.

For three weeks, Paul preached the gospel at the synagogue (v. 2), which was always the first place he went when he came to a new city.

A Church Begins in The City

Three weeks preaching the gospel
changed lives in that city!

**Even though Paul's ministry in
Thessalonica was not a long one,
it was solid enough to leave
behind a thriving church!**

Why Did Paul Write This Letter?

He was excited about what had been happening in Thessalonica, but was concerned about the persecution the young believers were facing.

Why Did Paul Write This Letter?

- A. Encouragement In The Midst Of Growth
- B. Strength In The Midst Of Difficulties
- C. Purity In The Midst Of Immorality
- D. Instruction In The Midst Of Confusion

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

3 Things God Does Not Want His Church To Be Ignorant About...

- 1. Spiritual gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:1**
- 2. Spiritual Warfare - 2 Corinthians 2:11**
- 3. The Coming of the Lord & the
Resurrection of believers 1 Thess 4:13**

The Beginning of a Church- VS 1

**Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Beginning of a Church- VS 1

There are two greetings here, one spiritual and one physical.

Grace is always followed by **peace**. The order is never reversed.

You will never experience the peace of God until you're in touch with the grace of God.

They Were Prayed For - VS 2

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

Everything in life boils down to relationships: a relationship with God and a relationship with others.

Sometimes we get so busy that our relationships suffer.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

They Were Picked By God - VS 4

4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

Election. This term is used six times in the New Testament. It always speaks of God choosing human beings.

They Were Productive- VS 3

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

They Were Productive- VS 3

A. Work Of Faith

B. Labor of Love

C. Patience Of Hope

The word patience means “to remain under a load and to stay the course when it’s tough.”

Here, Paul is talking about persecution.

The key to the perseverance of those at Thessalonica was the hope that Jesus Christ would return.

They had their eyes fixed on the future.

**VS 3 – Paul always associates these
three Christian graces together:**

Faith

Love

Hope

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